

Debate

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have a plan, but he said if it were enacted, it would have “eviscerated all the things the middle class care about.”

The debate took place a little more than a week after Obama and Romney met in the first of their three debates — an encounter that has fueled a Republican comeback in opinion polls.

With Democrats eager for Biden to show the spark the president lacked, he did so.

Unprompted, he brought up the video in which Romney had said 47 percent of Americans pay no federal income tax, view themselves as victims and do not take responsibility for their own lives.

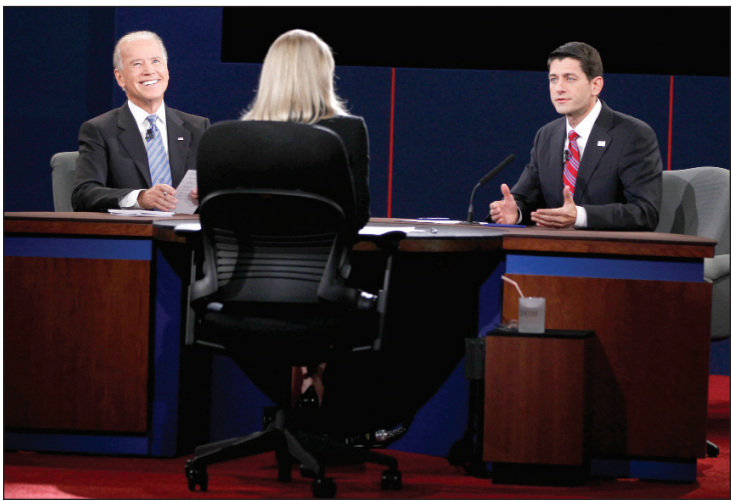
“It’s about time they take responsibility” instead of signing pledges to avoid raising taxes, Biden said — of Romney, Ryan and the Republicans.

The serial disagreements started immediately after the smiles and handshakes of the opening.

Ryan said in the debate’s opening moments that U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens had been denied sufficient security by administration officials. Stevens died in a terrorist attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi on Sept. 11.

“Not a single thing he said is accurate,” Democrat Biden shot back.

Republicans and Democrats alike have said in recent days the presidential race now approximates the competitive situation in place before the two political conventions. The two men are generally separated by a point or two in



MARK CORNELISON/LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER/MCT
Vice President Joe Biden, left, reacts as Congressman Paul Ryan makes a point during the Vice Presidential Debate at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky.

national public opinion polls and in several battleground states, with Obama holding a slender lead in Ohio and Wisconsin.

Both the president and Romney campaigned in battleground states during the day before ceding the spotlight to their political partners for the evening.

In Kentucky, Biden and Ryan seemed primed for a showdown from their opening moments on stage, and neither seemed willing to let the other have the final word. They interrupted each other repeatedly — and moderator Martha Raddatz of ABC as well.

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sponsibility” instead of signing pledges to avoid raising taxes, Biden said — of Romney, Ryan and the Republicans.

But Ryan quickly turned to dreary economic statistics — 23 million are struggling to work, he said, and 15 percent of the country is living in poverty. “This is not what a real recovery looks like.”

Medicare was a flashpoint, as well. Ryan said Obama’s health care plan had diverted \$716 billion from the program for seniors and created a new board that could deny care to patients who need it.

Democrats “haven’t put a credible solution on the table,” he said. “They’ll tell you about vouchers. They’ll say all these things to try to scare people.”

Biden quickly said that Ryan had authored not one but two proposals in which seniors would be given government payments that might not cover the entirety

of their care. Otherwise, he said, the Romney-Ryan approach wouldn’t achieve the savings they claimed.

Unlike Obama, Biden had no qualms about launching a personal attack on Romney.

After Ryan argued that Romney’s plan would pay for reduced tax rates by eliminating tax loopholes for the wealthy, Biden noted that on a recent interview on CBS’ “60 Minutes,” Romney defended the 14 percent tax rate he pays on his \$20 million income as fair, even though it’s a lower rate than some lower income taxpayers pay.

“You think these guys are going to go out there and cut those loopholes,” Biden asked, addressing the national TV audience.

Across 90 minutes, the two men agreed precisely once.

That was when Ryan, referring to the war in Afghanistan, said the calendar was the same each year. Biden agreed to that, but not to the underlying point, which was that it was a mistake for Obama to have announced a date for the withdrawal of the remainder of the U.S. combat troops.

The fiercest clash over foreign policy came in the debate’s opening moments, when Ryan cited events across the Middle East as well as Stevens’ death in Libya as evidence that the administration’s foreign policy was unraveling. The Republican also said the administration had failed to give Stevens the same level of protection as the U.S. ambassador in Paris receives.

Biden rebutted by saying that the budget that Ryan authored as chairman of the House Budget Committee had cut the administration’s funding request for diplomatic security by \$300 million.

Spirit

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40-64 for mammograms, if they don’t have insurance to pay for screening exams, and who have insurance but cannot pay the deductible or co-payment.

Involvement with the aforementioned organizations grew out of experiences with patients where Milroy said she could see services were lacking.

“As I dealt with patients one on one, there are certainly times I’ve recognized that people didn’t have the access or resources to make the choices they wanted to make,” she said.

While South Dakota has sometimes been slow to get involved with the organizations with which Milroy is a part, it quickly became an example to other states in those areas, she said.

“Some of that happens because we’re not a wealthy state,” Milroy stated. “South Dakota programs can do a lot with very little. I think a lot of it is the South Dakota ‘dig in and work hard’ ethic, because many states with more money have not had the successes our state has had.”

The Affordable Care Act is bringing many changes to the health care industry, she noted. And while Milroy said she doesn’t claim to know everything it will do, the legislation will undoubtedly benefit cancer patients in some ways.

“While I’m sure it is not perfect, I do think as far as cancer care, there are very good things in the legislation,” she stated. “Number one is doing away with (the ability to deny insurance for) pre-existing conditions. That helps a lot of cancer patients. There are cancer patients that can never get insurance, and that adds an extra burden on them. Getting rid of lifetime caps (on insurance) is another good thing. There are a lot of very expensive cancer drugs. What do you do if you are on a life-saving medication and you reach your cap?”

Other positive elements of the act are providing preventive services like cancer screenings at no cost to the patient and the ability to keep children on a parent’s health insurance plan until the age of 26, Milroy said.

Milroy spent much of her youth in Iowa and Minnesota, but attended medical school at the University of South Dakota. She and her husband, Dr. Dan Johnson, knew they wanted to raise their family in South Dakota. They have four daughters: Carrie, Laura, Leslie and Amy.

Looking at the experiences she has had in the state, Milroy said the Spirit of Dakota is alive and well.

“It’s the pioneer work ethic and community spirit,” she stated. “In many ways, the entire state of South Dakota is one community. People are always astounded by what a small state like South Dakota can accomplish.”

Also nominated for the Spirit of Dakota Award were Dr. Connie Allen, Springfield; Prudy Calvin, Watertown; Darcie Decker, Rapid City; Caroline Fuhrer, PA, Scotland; Kathie Gerstner, Yankton; Beth Hottel, Rapid City; Ilean Jordan, Faith; Gayle Kocer, Martin; Irma LaFaive, Ft. Pierre; Margie Peters, Murdo; Margaret Smith Pier, Pierre; Cheryl Rondeau Bassett, Wilmot; Marjorie Thoeleke, Britton; and Mary Wienbar, Iroquois.

The nominations were reviewed by an 11-member panel of women who serve in leadership roles in South Dakota. The panel includes First Lady Linda Daugaard; Sen. Jean Hunhoff, Yankton; Rep. Tona Rozum, Mitchell; Suzette Kirby, Sioux Falls; Judy Tryznka, Watertown; Bev Wright, Turton; Glenna Foubert, Aberdeen; Coral Bonnemann, Brookings; Bette Poppen, De Smet; and past Spirit of Dakota winners, Marsha Sumpter, Kadoka, and Julie Garreau, Eagle Butte.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage

DIII

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However, Henderson emphasized District III wasn’t promoting concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO). His office wouldn’t initiate action or seek parties for development.

“We would only do this if we were asked, if you approached us and let us know,” he told the county and tribal officials. “District III will not unilaterally go out and do research. It’s driven by you all (at the local level).”

District III staff member Brian McGinnis described the First Planning District’s research through GIS technology.

The First Planning District was contacted by area counties after the Bel Brands USA cheese plant announced its plans for South Dakota. The plans showed a need for additional dairy production in the northeast part of the state.

“We are talking about certified-ready sites that have the necessary roads, water, electricity and infrastructure,” he said, adding the process is similar to the industrial program used by the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED).

The research also looks at environmental issues such as aquifers, odor dispersion and setbacks, he added.

“With GIS, you have the capability to compile data and form layers,” he said. “You are able to separate things that will conflict with each other.”

In the end, CAFO sites were rated as good, better or best, he said.

“The potential of the land value goes up if it meets criteria and we can certify it,” he said. “It would certainly make a difference if it was considered commercial versus pasture.”

Henderson noted the First Planning District’s research was a pilot project through East Dakota Rural Water Development. The findings could be used elsewhere in South Dakota, including the south-central and southeast regions, he said.

“There may be ag groups interested in this (research),” he said. “The (estimated costs for the) first data was \$10,000 per county. If (the cost) was paid by other groups, it would be more attractive.”

The findings could provide valuable information for landowners with attractive property for large-scale animal operations, Henderson said.

“This could be a gold mine. But there are no guarantees, if the site meets criteria, that (interested parties) will pay big money for it,” he said. “We also don’t want to get people worked up with no project on the horizon.”

At a minimum, counties could use the information for updating their comprehensive plan, he said.

At the conclusion of the presentation, commissioners from three counties with past CAFO battles said they would anticipate strong opposition from their constituents toward large-scale livestock operations.

“It would be a hard sell (to a lot of our residents),” said Commissioner John Hauck of Bon Homme County.

Douglas County Commissioner Ewald Fink agreed. “I wouldn’t be running for re-election (supporting such an unpopular proposal),” he said.

Hutchinson County Commissioner Glenn Harnisch acknowl-

edged “you would have to sell it to our county residents.”

On the other hand, Harnisch saw a number of positive things coming out of the research. For example, the information would provide ready-made data for making zoning changes or for providing to interested parties, he said.

“We’re not selling Hutchinson County as pro or not (for CAFO), but the information is there,” he said. “This allows us to be proactive and not reactive.”

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